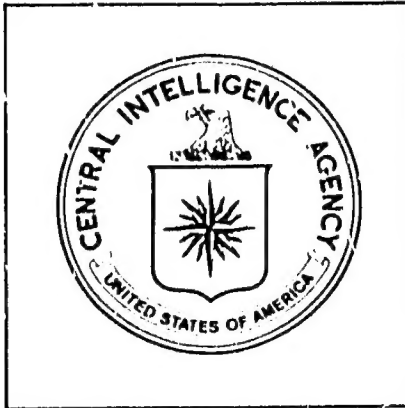


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Soviet Union-Eastern Europe

State Department review(s) completed.

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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USSR-Cuba: Suslov Heads
Delegation to Congress

Senior party ideologist Suslov heads the Soviet delegation that is in Havana for the Cuban party congress.

Angola will almost certainly be high on the agenda of discussion topics. Suslov will no doubt be full of praise for Cuba's contribution to the common effort in Africa, but he will also want to dissuade Castro from thinking that Moscow will express its gratitude in significantly greater economic and military assistance.

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Suslov is not likely to emphasize, as did Brezhnev when he visited Havana two years ago, the benefits of detente and the gains to be derived from a thaw in US-Cuban relations. The Soviets have a strong interest, now more than ever, in relieving the economic burden they bear because of Cuba's isolation in the hemisphere and hence in better Havana-Washington relations. They must be aware, however, that Cuba's involvement in Angola, along with its position on Puerto Rican independence, would arrest any movement toward rapprochement with the US. Moscow and Havana probably made the hard choice last summer.

The Soviets have new reason to feel that they are getting some pay-off for their investment in Cuba. Last summer, Castro successfully organized a conference of Latin American and Caribbean communist parties in Havana, which the Soviets hope will be a steppingstone toward an international meeting. The conference adopted the Kremlin's line against supporting armed revolution in Latin America, and the Cubans, for the first time, went so far as to sign a document condemning the Chinese communists by name.

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December 16, 1975

Moscow Waffles on Portuguese Timor

International attention to the Indonesian invasion of Portuguese Timor and Soviet ideological pretensions have led Moscow to edge closer to public criticism of Jakarta. The Soviets are still pulling their punches, however, for fear of upsetting their gradually improving relations with Indonesia.

The most authoritative statement thus far of Moscow's views on the invasion appeared in a *Pravda* commentary by A. Yuryev on December 12. Yuryev implies that the Soviet Union's sympathies rest with the leftist-oriented Fretilin faction, but he stops short of directly condemning the Indonesian government's action. The commentator simply attributes the military invasion to a "pro-Indonesian" group. Yuryev speaks of Moscow's support of Timor's right to self determination, but refrains from making any judgment as to whether the former colony should remain independent or be absorbed by Indonesia.

The invasion came at an unfortunate juncture for Moscow because Soviet-Indonesian relations have been warming somewhat. Jakarta only recently agreed "in principle" to accept a Soviet offer of over \$100 million in credit to finance and build two hydroelectric projects in Java. This is the first Soviet aid to Indonesia since the abortive coup by the Indonesian Communist Party in 1965.

Broader issues are also involved. In Moscow's eyes, instability in Southeast Asia--even in Portuguese Timor--evokes the specter of increased Chinese and American influence. The Soviets believe, however ideologically distasteful it may be, that the Indonesian government is the best hope of restoring order to the troubled island of Timor.

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December 16, 1975

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko
to Japan in January

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko will go to Japan early next month. No precise date has yet been set, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Gromyko's trip to Japan has been in the works for many months. It ran afoul of Tokyo's efforts to negotiate a peace treaty with China in which the latter pressed for the infamous hegemony clause. With that treaty still unsigned, Gromyko may have felt a visit was necessary.

His talks with the Japanese will be difficult. The northern territories issue is certain to be brought up, and Gromyko will not have anything new to offer. Moscow has hinted that it might consider giving back two of the islands, but no more. Gromyko will also be bearded by the Japanese on the meaning of a reference in his article in the October issue of *Kommunist* implying that the territorial issue was settled. The Japanese say that this violates the Brezhnev-Tanaka understanding that the northern territories were an appropriate subject of negotiations between the two countries.

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December 16, 1975

Prague's Press Blasted by Belgrade

With the ink hardly dry on the joint communique summing up Premier Strougal's visit to Belgrade, the Czechoslovak press last week once again incurred the wrath of the Yugoslavs because of its subservience to Moscow.

On Wednesday, the Czechoslovak party daily *Rude Pravo* commemorated the 1960 and 1969 Moscow conferences of communist parties by calling for a new world party conclave. The commentary gave a passing nod to the independence of the parties, but its emphasis was on "proletarian internationalism" and on Moscow's "international recognition as the vanguard of the movement." On the deadlocked preparations for the European party conference, *Rude Pravo* came down hard in favor of a "truly militant and Communist" final document. It also pushed the struggle against Maoism, which it said has now become "an urgent combat task for the entire Communist movement."

Belgrade's predictably angry response came quickly. The Yugoslavs rejected Prague's attempt to require all parties to join in the anti-Chinese polemics and took particular exception to its claim that the documents signed at the 1960 and 1969 conferences --which Yugoslavia did not attend--are still valid. The party organ *Borba* pointed out with some asperity that Belgrade considers Prague's statements on these documents as direct interference in Yugoslav internal affairs.

During the Strougal visit, the Yugoslavs probably presented the Czechs a list of their grievances over the content of Prague's propaganda. Such barbs may continue to delay the visit of President Tito, which the Czechoslovak regime desires. Yugoslav handling of their complaint--broadcasting it to the Soviet Union in Russian--indicates that they also intended the message to get to Prague's mentors.

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Hungary-Romania: Public Warmth

The Hungarian regime tried hard to create a warm atmosphere for Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu's visit to Budapest from December 8-11. The differing viewpoints of the two sides were nonetheless evident.

In addition to his formal talks with his Hungarian counterpart, Frigyes Puja, Macovescu made official calls on President Losonczi, Premier Lazar, and Politburo member Biszku, who apparently was standing in for the traveling Kadar. The embassy says that Hungarian media provided unusually friendly publicity, with several editorials calling for closer economic and political ties with Bucharest.

A Romanian diplomatic source suggested to the embassy that this public display of warmth is a result of a decision by both sides that differences over the Hungarian minority in Romania should not interfere with improving economic ties or with efforts to understand the other's position on certain European political issues.

The communique, however, stated that the two foreign ministers had a "frank and open exchange of views" on bilateral relations, thus suggesting that differences over the minority issue were freely aired. The two sides also "exchanged views" on international issues, the communique stated, but the Hungarians did get the maverick Romanians to accept favorable mention of the Warsaw Pact, CEMA, and "socialist internationalism."

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Bulgaria: Lilov Re-emerges

Aleksandur Lilov, Politburo member and party secretary for ideology, has returned to public view after an absence of nearly five months.

According to a Bulgarian newspaper, Lilov was present on December 11 when party/state leader Zhivkov addressed a Sofia meeting of the Bulgarian Writers Union. Lilov had been absent from the usual gatherings of the Bulgarian leadership since July 23 and has also missed numerous ideological sessions at which he would normally officiate.

Lilov is apparently not in political trouble. Young and highly regarded, he has been a primary architect of the "ideological offensive" that is Bulgaria's response to detente with the West. This hard-line policy continues, and the press on several occasions over the last few months has mentioned Lilov favorably. He is a close friend of Zhivkov's daughter, Lyudmila, and some rumors claim that he may be her third husband.

East European and Bulgarian sources have told the US embassy that Lilov is very seriously ill and was in the Soviet Union receiving medical treatment. We have no information about the nature of his infirmity or how it will affect his future within the leadership.

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CHRONOLOGY

December 9

President Podgorny begins a two-day state visit to Afghanistan; he is accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov, Deputy Defense Minister Pavlovsky, and economic aid specialist Skachkov. [REDACTED]

25X1

Deputy Foreign Minister Korniyenko confers with US Ambassador Stoessel on a variety of bilateral issues. [REDACTED]

25X1

Hungarian firm Radelkis and Corning Glass of the US sign a joint venture agreement, a first in bilateral relations. [REDACTED]

25X1

US-Yugoslav Economic Council convenes in New York. [REDACTED]

25X1

Brezhnev and the six other bloc party leaders on hand for the Polish congress hold a brief "summit" meeting, allegedly on post-CSCE steps to be taken. [REDACTED]

25X1

President Ford confers with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin. [REDACTED]

25X1

Cambodian leader Sihanouk begins a three-day state visit to Albania. [REDACTED]

25X1

Brezhnev, Czechoslovak party/state leader Husak, Hungarian party chief Kadar, Bulgarian party/state leader Zhivkov, East German party chief Honecker, and Polish Premier Jaroszewicz speak at the Polish party congress. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 16, 1975

December 9 Ambassador-at-large Vinogradov completes two days of talks in Syria on the Middle East situation. [REDACTED] 25X1

Foreign Minister Gromyko completes his talks with visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minic, who also met today with Premier Kosygin. [REDACTED] 25X1

December 10 Czechoslovak Premier Strougal completes a three-day official visit to Yugoslavia; a trade agreement covering 1976-80 and a separate protocol on trade next year are signed. [REDACTED] 25X1

USSR and East Germany sign a series of economic cooperation accords. [REDACTED] 25X1

RSFSR Supreme Soviet convenes at the Kremlin for a two-day meeting. [REDACTED] 25X1

Soviet citizens Andrey Sakharov--in the person of his wife Yelena--and Leonid Kantorovich receive their Nobel prizes at separate ceremonies in Scandinavia. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X6

December 11 President Podgorny returns to Moscow after an overnight stay in Tashkent en route home from Afghanistan. [REDACTED] 25X1

Brezhnev returns to Moscow from Poland.

25X1

Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu completes a four-day official visit to Hungary. [REDACTED] 25X1

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25X1

December 11 Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minic completes a four-day official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED] 25X1

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek ends a three-day visit to Afghanistan and returns home. [REDACTED] 25X1

Politburo candidate-member Ponomarev confers with Brazilian Communist party chief Carlos Prestes. [REDACTED] 25X1

GDR Foreign Minister Fischer visits India after talks in Syria and Iraq. [REDACTED]

25X1

GDR-FRG border commission completes its meeting at Rostock, reporting that "unresolved questions of the Elbe sector" remain the key issue; the commission is to reconvene February 11. [REDACTED] 25X1

December 12 Dissident biologist Sergey Kovalev is sentenced to seven years in a "corrective labor colony" and three years of "exile" in Siberia at the conclusion of his trial in the Lithuanian SSR; other dissidents, including Sakharov, are not permitted to attend the proceedings. [REDACTED] 25X1

Al-Ahram reports that the Soviet-Egyptian dept rescheduling negotiations have been terminated after three weeks; the date for the next round is described as "open to question." [REDACTED] 25X1

Defense Minister Grechko confers with visiting North Vietnamese Defense Minister Giap. [REDACTED] 25X1

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25X1

25X1

December 12 US and the USSR are both on the losing end of a 102-12 vote as the UN General Assembly expresses concern over "the protracted timetable contemplated for the negotiation of further limitations" on strategic armaments. [REDACTED]

25X1

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Escovar leaves Caracas for a ten-day official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

Politburo member Suslov and candidate-member Ponomarev confer with a delegation of visiting Iraqi Communists. [REDACTED]

25X1

Foreign Minister Gromyko confers with visiting Colombian Minister of Economic Development Ramirez; a bilateral economic agreement is signed. [REDACTED]

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25X1

Japanese Foreign Minister Miyazawa confers with Soviet Ambassador Troyanovsky, and officials of the Japanese foreign ministry subsequently report that Foreign Minister Gromyko will visit Tokyo early next month to resume peace treaty negotiations. [REDACTED]

25X1

The "newly elected" Central Committee of the Polish party meets on the final day of the congress in Warsaw; Edward Gierek is re-elected party leader. [REDACTED]

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25X1

December 12 Romanian party secretary Andrei completes a five-day visit to Italy, where he had gone at the invitation of the Italian Socialist Party. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 13 Chinese Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua confers with visiting Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Vancea. [REDACTED]

25X1

USSR and Yugoslavia agree to extend to 1978 their economic cooperation agreement first concluded in 1966.

25X1

[REDACTED]
Cambodian leader Sihanouk concludes a three-day state visit to Romania, which announces that it will open an embassy at Phnom Penh "in the near future." [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet-Egyptian trade protocol for 1976 is initialed in Cairo. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 14 Draft directives for the USSR's 1976-80 economic plan, approved by the CPSU Central Committee and signed by Brezhnev, are published in *Pravda*. [REDACTED]

25X1

Politburo member Suslov, candidate-member Romanov, party secretary Katushev, and deputy premier for foreign economic relations Arkhipov arrive in Havana for a six-day party congress opening December 17. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav Foreign Minister arrives in Paris for the Conference on International Economic Cooperation. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 15 A four-day RSFSR writers congress opens in Moscow with five full members of the CPSU Politburo on hand. [REDACTED]

25X1

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25X1

25X1

December 15 Warsaw Pact foreign ministers convene in Moscow for their first formal meeting since 1973. [REDACTED]

25X1

Hungarian party chief Kadar, Bulgarian party/state head Zhiykov, Polish President Jablonski, Czechoslovak party secretary Bilak arrive in Havana for the party Congress. [REDACTED]

25X1

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Grishin leaves Cairo after apparently unsuccessful negotiations on rescheduling Egyptian debt payments. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 16 Cambodian leader Sihanouk begins a state visit to Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Romanian party's Central Committee begins a two-day plenum. [REDACTED]

25X1

FUTURE EVENTS

December 17 US-Soviet negotiations on peaceful nuclear explosions under a threshold test ban to recess until late January. [REDACTED]

25X1

December 18 MBFR negotiations to begin a Christmas recess. [REDACTED]

25X1

SAL talks to recess until January 12. [REDACTED]

A "working group" to convene in East Berlin for a two-day meeting on further preparations for the proposed pan-European Communist party conference.

[REDACTED]

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December 19 [redacted] Brezhnev to mark his 69th birthday.

25X1

December 25 Soviets' TU-144 SST to begin regular passenger service on its first route, Moscow - Alma-ata. [redacted]

25X1

late December Soviet negotiators to come to Washington for further talks on the rate to be charged for shipment of US grain to the USSR on non-Soviet vessels. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

January 1 Czechoslovakia to lift its ban on permanent representation there by foreign firms; the ban had been instituted soon after the republic was taken over by the Communists.

25X1

[redacted]
USSR to impose a 56-m.p.h. speed limit, the first highway speed limit in Soviet history. [redacted]

25X1

Romania to begin a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. [redacted]

25X1

USSR's "financial aid tax" on remittances from abroad to enter into effect. [redacted]

25X1

GDR-FRG health agreement to enter into force. [redacted]

25X1

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